



WITH FLATS OF PLANTS
Frank Cross' Earlier Ones Are Ready

Raises Tomato Plants And Gives Away 2000

By LINDA LATHEM

"Just let me put the babies to bed, then I'll be with you," was the typical phrase heard around the Frank Cross home in Decatur during the past three months.

The babies referred to young tomato plants being grown by Frank Cross, a retired chemistry professor and a former member of the faculty of East Central Junior College. Cross has grown tomato plants as a hobby since his retirement several years ago.

To date he has given away 1390 plants to some 50 persons through out the state of Mississippi. Some plants have even gone outside the state, the furthest being Nashville, Tenn.

Planting begins early in

shipments. The seed are germinated in a mixture of peat moss, vermiculite, and 13-13-13 fertilizer. Because the house, especially the living room, affords adequate heat, Cross germinates the seed indoors then moves them to a tent greenhouse made of concrete reinforced wire covered with polyethelene plastic. Sometimes when the weather became rough and a hard freeze set in, Cross placed the plants in his car under the carport to protect them for the night.

Young plants receive nutri-
SOLUTION



tion each time they are watered. Cross mixes two tablespoons of 13-13-13 fertilizer with one gallon of water. This is also used as a transplanting solution to protect the young plants from shock.

Over 2000 plants have been grown for giving this year. Of this number there have been ten varieties. Some of these include Marion, Homestead F-24, Early Girl, Better Boy, Burpee's Delicious and others. Each seems to grow well under the care of Frank Cross and his Midas touch.

If one needs to learn the magic of correct tomato growing, he should visit the man who makes wonderful things happen each springs when he begins his four-month long project of grow-

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